

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 143

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor Vice President Albert Gore, Jr., whose passionate and decades-long quest to warn the world about global warming culminated in the documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*, which garnered two Oscar Awards at the prestigious 79th Annual Academy Awards.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those political and government leaders who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as remarkable citizens of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable leader is Vice President Albert Gore, Jr., a Tennessean and an outstanding public servant whose tireless thirty-year crusade to educate the public about global warming and to effect change culminated in the highly-acclaimed documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*, which recently garnered two Oscar Awards at the prestigious 79th Annual Academy Awards; and

WHEREAS, *An Inconvenient Truth*, which is the third-highest-grossing documentary, won Oscars for Best Documentary Feature and best Original Song, catapulting the issue of climate change to the forefront of current news, politics, and pop culture; and

WHEREAS, Vice President Gore is the star and narrator of this documentary, which is widely credited with helping to shift U.S. public opinion on the need for urgent action to curb man-made emissions of greenhouse gases linked to global warming; and

WHEREAS, serving as a testament to Mr. Gore's ability to inspire, the film's director, Davis Guggenheim, told the Academy audience that everyone who made this compelling documentary did so because they were moved to act by Al Gore; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gore's record of service is indeed one of accomplishment and great admiration; he has dedicated more than a quarter of a century of his life's work to promoting effective and responsive government for all people; and

WHEREAS, as a citizen of the State of Tennessee, Vice President Gore has proven his commitment to improving the quality of life for this state's citizens; and

WHEREAS, as a citizen of the United States, Vice President Gore has always worked sedulously to better the lives of America's people; and

WHEREAS, Al Gore currently serves as Chairman of Generation Investment Management, a London-based firm that is focused on a new approach to Sustainable Investing; the company will manage assets of institutional investors, such as pension funds, foundations and endowments, as well as those of "high net worth individuals," from offices in London and Washington; and

WHEREAS, he is also Chairman of Current, an independently-owned cable and satellite television network for young people based on viewer-created content and citizen journalism; and

WHEREAS, lending his professional talents to a variety of noteworthy institutions, Al Gore is a member of the Board of Directors of Apple Computer, Inc. and a Senior Advisor to Google, Inc.; he is also a Visiting Professor at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gore began his ongoing commitment to serving the people of this state and nation when he was elected to represent the Fourth District of Tennessee in the United States House of Representatives in 1976; and

WHEREAS, he continued his dedication to public service during his tenure in the United States Senate from 1984 to 1992; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gore served his home state so well that he was re-elected to the U.S. Senate in 1990 with an unprecedented majority in each of Tennessee's 95 counties; and

WHEREAS, Al Gore was inaugurated as the forty-fifth Vice President of the United States of America on January 20, 1993, a position in which he served with distinction; President Bill Clinton and he astutely led the country during a period of unprecedented economic growth and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, during the administration, Al Gore was a central member of President Clinton's economic team, helping to design the program that led to the strong U.S. economy,

casting the tie-breaking Senate vote for the plan in 1993, and helping to pass the first balanced budget in thirty years; and

WHEREAS, he helped to usher in the longest peacetime economic expansion in American history, with more than 18 million new jobs, wages rising twice the rate of inflation, the lowest African-American and Hispanic poverty rates on record, the highest level of private home ownership ever, increased investment in the cities, and the lowest unemployment rate in twenty-nine years; and

WHEREAS, he demonstrated his resolve to improving and protecting the lives of all Americans through his adroit service as President Clinton's Advisor on Foreign Policy, President of the United States Senate, and as a member of the President's Cabinet and the National Security Council; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gore was also an early and visionary leader in technology and telecommunications, helping to steer passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which promoted private investment and competition in the telecommunications industry; and

WHEREAS, Vice President Gore epitomizes the spirit and commitment that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; he was raised in Carthage, Tennessee and Washington, D.C. by his much admired father, the late United States Senator Albert Gore, Sr., and his mother, Pauline Gore; and

WHEREAS, he graduated with honors from Harvard University, from which he received a degree in government, in 1969; and

WHEREAS, he valiantly served his country by volunteering for enlistment in the United States Army and then serving in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, prior to the beginning of his career in the public sector, Al Gore served adroitly as an investigative reporter for *The Tennessean*; and

WHEREAS, he then sought to further his education, which would serve as the basis for his extraordinary political career, at Vanderbilt University's Divinity School and Law School; and

WHEREAS, his pioneering efforts to protect the earth's ozone layer and to clean up toxic-waste dumps were outlined in his best-selling book: *EARTH IN THE BALANCE: Ecology and the Human Spirit*; and

WHEREAS, a leading environmental advocate, he is passionately committed to protecting and preserving the environment for future generations, writing: "We must make the rescue of the environment the central organizing principle for civilization"; and

WHEREAS, Albert Gore, Jr., is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Mary Elizabeth "Tipper" Aitcheson Gore; together they have four children, Karennia, Kristin, Sarah, and Albert III, and two grandchildren, Wyatt Gore Schiff and Anna Hunger Schiff; and

WHEREAS, Al and Tipper Gore are two of the strongest voices for America's families, and their annual Family Reunion policy conference in their hometown of Nashville has promoted new initiatives that strengthen fatherhood, increase flexibility for mothers and fathers in the workplace, and give parents more control over information that comes into their homes; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Vice President Al Gore for his dedicated public service to the United States of America, and particularly to the state of Tennessee and his fellow citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Vice President Albert Gore, Jr., as a Tennessean of the greatest stature, whose tenacious quest to warn the world about global warming and to effect change culminated in the documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*, which garnered two Oscar Awards at the prestigious 79th Annual Academy Awards.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we commend Mr. Gore for his laudable service to this nation and the great State of Tennessee, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.